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The Enemy Situation in IV Corps

9. The current pattern of Viet Cong - initiated military activity in the delta provinces of South Vietnam's IV Corps suggests some degree of weakness in the position there of Communist military forces. Captured documents, prisoner interrogations, and [REDACTED] point to increased enemy difficulties in resupply and recruiting.

10. Since 18 February--with the exception of an early March assault on Ca Mau city--the over-all level of enemy-initiated activity has decreased significantly. The bulk of this activity has been concentrated on interdiction efforts against vital road

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and supply routes in addition to standoff attacks by fire. Even the rate and intensity of these actions, however, has been noted falling off in recent weeks. For example, the number of small unit attacks, including attacks by fire, averaged only about 20 per week for the last six weeks. This rate is less than, but close to, the pre-Tet level of attacks. In contrast, the rate for small scale attacks during March and early April averaged near 60 per week.

11. Several factors are probably involved in the decline in enemy military activity. With increased Communist emphasis on the northern half of the country and the Saigon area, it is possible that the enemy's delta forces have been ordered to fill their needs for supplies and reinforcements from local sources only. Large numbers of enemy arms and supply caches have recently been uncovered by allied sweep operations. Despite reports of new Communist weapons and North Vietnamese infiltrators in the delta, the Viet Cong forces there are undoubtedly experiencing difficulties in maintaining a fully effective combat-readiness posture. Furthermore, increased allied military coordination and aggressiveness under the direction of a new corps commander may have helped take the initiative away from the Communists. The allied operations, which have included new concepts and techniques of locating and destroying enemy concentrations of personnel and supplies, have inflicted continual losses, kept the enemy partly off balance, and denied him the ability to maneuver and mass his forces as easily as in the past.

12. Climate is probably also an important consideration currently for the Communists in the delta. The summer southwest monsoon season is approaching. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the delta between June and October.

13. It is also possible that the Viet Cong in the delta are attempting to conserve their energies and logistics for another round of large scale activity at a time of their choosing, possibly in coordination with other offensives expected in key areas of the country.

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